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10/708,436

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Ellen Huffman
Signature of Person Mailing Ellen Huffman

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Alfred E. Crouch, et al.

Application No.: 10/708,436

Filed: 03/03/2004

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IN-LINE
STRESS MEASUREMENT BY
CONTINUOUS BARKHAUSEN METHOD

Art Unit: 2862

Examiner: Jay M. Patidar

Attorney Docket No.: 800736

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Remarks

Dear Sir:

The Applicants thank the Office for the consideration given the application in the communication of February 15, 2005. The Office has deemed the title of the invention to be not descriptive. Applicants suggest the following alternative as a suitable title of the invention:

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IN-LINE STRESS MEASUREMENT OF
PIPELINE WALL SURFACES BY CONTINUOUS BARKHAUSEN NOISE
DETECTION

The preambles of independent claims 1, 14 and 27 have been amended accordingly.

The Office has rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 13-15, 18, 20 and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art in view of King et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,408,160). The Office objects to claims 3, 4, 6, 8-10, 12, 16, 17, 19, 21-25, 29 and 30. The Office has not addressed the status of claim 11. Applicants have amended claims 1, 14 and 27, and added new claim 31, as shown below. New claim 31 is a kit claim that includes the limitations recited in independent system claim 27.

Figure 1 has also been amended to correct a minor reference error. Applicants believe that these amendments further distinguish Applicants' claimed invention and enable allowance of the claims. Applicants believe that the rejected claims, as amended, define over the references cited in the Office Action of February 15, 2005. The amendments are fully supported by the specification as filed. Applicants request reconsideration and examination of the application in view of the following amendments and discussion.